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Letter To The Editor

The Editor
Appomattox Times-Virginian
Appomattox, Virginia

Dear Sir:

I request you to publish the information concerning the swimming achievement of Dr. Alexander V. Berkis.

Dr. Alexander V. Berkis, professor of History at Longwood College, earned a certificate, an emblem and a pin for completing fifty miles of swimming. Dr. Berkis completed fifty miles of swimming as the first swimmer of South Pinellas County Chapter, in Gulfport, Florida, of The American Red Cross. He did swim from June 20 to June 25 for eight hours without any interruption while the lifeguards were on duty. He did swim fighting streams and waves. During those six days, Dr. Berkis completed 54 ½ miles or more than nine miles daily as the average.

It should be noted that Dr. Berkis has always engaged in long distance swimming since his childhood. Various kinds of physical activities, including bicycling, constitute his lifestyle. Although Dr. Berkis will be 61 in some days, he has plans and encouragements for swimming in the future. His recent swimming in Florida was re-testing of his swimming abilities and endurance.

Sincerely yours,
Dr. Filibor Hevener, Jr.

The Editor
Appomattox Times-Virginian
Appomattox, Virginia, 24522

Dear Sir:

A STRONG WEAPON

Informed persons are not surprised to see that the Soviet Union rejected the United States nuclear arms control proposals recently, shattering the American efforts to reach a new strategic arms limitation treaty. The Senate Majority Leader, Robert C. Byrd, said that anyone who was surprised that the Soviet Union rejected those American proposals is naive.

Informed Americans likewise realize that the Soviet Union is constantly improving its offensive war capabilities and is actually preparing for an aggressive war.

Therefore, concerned citizens should urge President Jimmy Carter and the Congress to do their best to provide the United State military defense with the cruise missile. This pilotless subsonic aircraft, which can be launched from bombers, ships or land, is a strong and effective weapon, deterring the Soviet Union from launching a nuclear attack on the United States.

Sincerely yours,
Dr. Alexander V. Berkis
Professor of History

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PASTOR SPEAKS

Have you ever tried to explain something to someone, and for some reason what you are saying is not what is being heard?

In business and public service, this is a most serious problem. If ideas of production do not move intelligibly from one level to another, the product may not get started, must less finished as intended. Whether anyone will use the services of government, professionals or volunteer agencies depends on the people hearing and understanding what is being offered. Homes, offices, churches, schools, and so on, depend on this speaking and hearing.

Most everyone seems to have the problem of remembering names of people. Remembering names depends on hearing the name first. Hearing names is a problem when people mumble or slur or have a speech problem. Hearing names is also hindered when you are being introduced yet thinking what you are going to say or what that person looks like.

Quite often our problem arises from hearing what we want to hear, and not what is said. A member of the family may even say, "I love you," but depending on your mood you might interpret the expression in many ways: as affection, sarcasm, "buttering-up" or being put on the defensive.

Such was the case with Jesus who tried to share the love of God in parables and sermons. He used such simple illustrations and stories that show how Christians are to live but we still have trouble hearing him today. The Pharisees, Scribes, Roman leaders and others could not hear because Jesus was not saying what they wanted to hear.

Such is the nature of our sin.

Pray that we might have ears to hear and eyes to see that we might believe and follow in righteousness.

P. Edward Leonard, Jr.
Memorial United Methodist Church, Appomattox, Va.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

GRASSHOPPER COMPLEX

Lesson for July 17, 1977

Background Scripture
Numbers 13 - 14
Devotional Reading:
Psalms 77:1-15

One of the things that often strengthens the authority of the Bible for me is, not the record of wonderful things that it holds, but the tragedies and failures it is willing to acknowledge. If the Bible were no more than a book produced by a people, one would expect that the negative parts would be edited out of it. We would have a record of wonderous events, beautiful teachings, and dramatic oracles, but we would hardly record the adultery of King David, the depression of Elijah, the thrice denial of Christ by the Apostle Peter, nor the cry of Jesus from the cross — "My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?"

An Evil Report

Among those passages we would be sure to eliminate would be chapters 13 and 14 of the Book of Numbers. No proud people would want any record to remain of such an appalling chapter in their history, for in these passages the behavour of the people of Israel is almost incomprehensible.

Think of it this way. For a long time the people of Israel have been wandering the desert, sustained by the hope of the Promised Land. Now, at last, they are ready to leave the wilderness and claim their heritage and they send out a reconnaisance party to reconnoiter Canaan. And, although God caused them to escape the might of Egypt, fed them, led them, and sustained them in the wildness with many marvelous acts, when the scouting party returns there is, with the exception of Joshua and Caleb, a desperate report given to them: "We are not able to go up against the people: for they are stronger than we" (Numbers 13-31).

Not only did the spies bring back a negative report, but they let their emotions get the best of them and greatly magnified the dangers:

The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are men of great stature . . . and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so, we seemed to to them (13:32-33)

The problem with the spies was not that they saw danger in Canaan, but that they greatly magnified the danger and discounted or minimized the power of God.

Back to Slavery!

Then, an absolutely incredible thing happened. Not only were the people of Israel discouraged by the hysterical report, but suddenly they wanted to throw in the towel and go back to the slavery they had known in Egypt! You and I can harly comprehend what made them say this, yet, when we are honest, we would have to admit that human nature would often prefer to return to a known bondage than take the risk of future freedom.

The truly tragic aspect of this whole incident in Numbers 13 and 14 is that it indicates that, despite all that he has done for them, the people of Israel still have not learned to put their dependence upon him. Each one of us is created in God's image, therefore none of us should ever look upon ourselves as "grasshoppers" literally or figuratively.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Community Press Service.)

WRECK ISLAND CLUB TO MEET

The Wreck Island Extension Homemakers Club will meet on Wednesday, July 20, 1977, at 11:00 A.M. in the home of Mrs. Virginia Tyler for a covered dish luncheon.

All members are urged to attend this meeting.

both intake and the nutritional value of the pasture.

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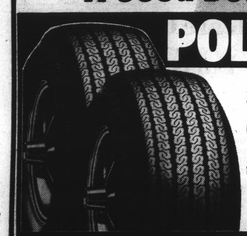
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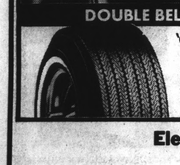
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TEEN and NOW!

By Frances H. Paulette

Rev. R. Q. Lawing, retired teacher, minister, and a citizen actively engaged in making our county a better place in which to live. Said Rev. Lawing, "I'm too young to retire!"

"Fessor"

It was cold in the Vocational Agriculture Classroom in the Appomattox County Training School, (it was later to become the Carver Price School, and is at present the Appomattox County Elementary School), and "Fessor" Lawing, as he was affectionately known to his students had the coal stove just chugging along to ward off the chill. He only turned his back for a minute - - - just one tiny minute - - - but that was all the time the boys needed! Before their teacher knew what was happening, there was a loud explosion-like noise and it sounded as though someone had set off a charge of dynamite! It was a firecracker the boys had managed to slip, unnoticed, into the stove."Fessor" tried every possible way to learn the identity of these guilty boys,but he tried in vain.Those boys just weren't telling!

Raymond Quinton Lawing, a son of the late William E. and Mary M. Lawing was born on a farm in 1910 in Chesterfield County near Petersburg, Va.

The main cash crop on the family farm was peanuts, and at a very early age young Lawing had to learn to plant, harvest, thresh and then sell by the bag the peanuts that the rich farmland produced. This part of farm chores he didn't mind too much; it was the milking of the cows during the long, cold winter months that he could easily have done without!

As a little fellow in Sunday Young Lawing wanted to be a minister but it seemed as though his future was taking another direction. After graduating from high school at Virginia State College Practice High School at Virginia State College in Petersburg in 1928, he continued his education at Virginia State College, graduating in 1932.

"I like Appomattox, the easy fellowship between the white and black. I couldn't have chosen a better place to locate," stated Rev. Lawing as we talked last week.Coming to Appomattox County in the fall of 1932,he began his teaching career in the Field of Vocational Agriculture; he continued in his field for the next 43 years,retiring from teaching in 1975.

It was in 1933 that only one student graduated from Appomattox Training School but Lawing was not discouraged. He continually tried to impress upon the young men the need to further their education after completion of high school. It is my opinion that Rev. Lawing has had a far greater influence for good on those who were his students than he will ever realize. One young man he taught went on to college, earned his PhD and is a teacher at Virginia State College. There are many others who have gone on to achieve high ideals that were encouraged and inspired by Rev. Lawing.

"There was one incident that Rev. Lawing remembers clearly. A young man in his class had been a problem as far as behavior was concerned. He notified the father of the incident. In a few days the father came to school and told the son in front of the class that if he heard any more from the teacher Lawing that he was misbehaving, he, the father, would give his son a whipping in front of the class! Rev. Lawing said he always had the full cooperation of the parents while he was teaching. When asked about the differences THEN and NOW, Rev. Lawing said "the greatest difference is in behavior and manners. Back then, parents would always back a teacher whenever a problem arose."

Actively working in the church, Lawing served as Sunday School Superintendent and was ordained as a deacon. He even served as organist for two churches but still had the feeling that he was not doing all that God expected of him.In 1946 he answered the call to preach, preparing for the ministry by studying with the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago.He now serves as pastor for three churches; Promise Land, Mt. Shiloh, and Galilee, with a total membership of approximately 400.

I asked Rev. Lawing if he could give me an idea of just how many weddings he had performed and how many funerals he had conducted since entering the ministry in 1946. He was most obliging . . . not an estimate but the exact number! You see, he is most accurate at record keeping. With a total of 266 weddings and 316 funerals to date, combined with the other obligations that go with being a minister, Rev. Lawing has been a busy man indeed.

With a chuckle, Rev. Lawing recalled one home wedding in particular. He had just pronounced the couple man and wife and he asked the groom if he would please salute his bride; Rev. Lawing meant 'with a kiss' of course! The young man, whether lacking in knowledge of such things or just excited by his new status, promptly raised his hand in a military salute!

On one occasion Rev. Lawing ran a bus excursion from here to Sparrows Point, Md. to the Union Baptist Church. When he arrived, and only then, did he realize that he had left his briefcase containing his manuscript back in Appomattox! Not easily discouraged, and depending on the Lord, he went ahead with his sermon, Afterward, those who heard him, complimented him on an outstanding sermon, so the forgotten briefcase really didn't matter after all.

"Each of my churches", stated Rev. Lawing, "has been improved physically, with additions and enlargements; I just pray that they have kept pace spiritually."

A rare incident occurred recently. A young, white couple from the Blackstone area (while on vacation) drove up to one of Rev. Lawing's churches just as the morning worship service was beginning. They were looking for a place to worship before continuing on their way. Although the young man was a minister he declined Rev. Lawing's offer to preach but did speak briefly before the service.

Rev. Lawing and his wife, a retired beauty operator, built their present home in 1948. They have six children, two of their boys are teaching in high schools in Virginia. Add eleven grandchildren and you will see that Rev. and Mrs. Lawing lead a full, busy life.

In 1932, at the request of Calvin H. Robinson, former editor and publisher of **The Times-Virginian**, Rev. Lawing began writing a weekly column for the paper. He is still one of our most faithful reporters.

It is not easy to try to sum up in a few words what a man of Rev. Lawing's calibre means to Appomattox County. A teacher who really cared about his students - - - enough to work with them after high school, helping them get into college; a minister whose congregation is in his heart and prayers every day of the week; a citizen, loved and respected by all who know him as a contributing member of society. What can I say? "Teacher-man, Preacher-man, but most of all Gentleman!"

Thank you, Rev. Lawing, for the visit in your home, for permitting me to write about you, but most of all for what you mean to our county. Thanks, "Fessor", for coming to Appomattox!

Food Shopper

By Ann H. Walker
Va. Dept of Agriculture and Commerce

Summertime - it brings holidays, vacations, and casual living. It also brings a variety of fruit to enjoy at low, in-season prices.

If you plan to buy fruit for munching or for canning or freezing, you need to know how long and how to keep it. Most fresh fruits reamin at their best for only a few days - but some if stored properly, may keep for months. All fruits, however, require careful handling and storage to conserve quality.

How you handle your fresh fruit makes the difference. Before storing fruits, sort them and either use or discard damaged fruits immediately. Most fruits (except berries and cherries) should be washed and dried before storing.

Unripe fruits should be left to ripen in open air at room temperature and out of direct sunlight. Some fruits, such as grapes, pineapple, and watermelon, will not ripen further after picking.

The length of time that a fresh fruit will retain high quality (under home storage conditions) varies with the condition of the fruit when purchased (or harvested, if the fruit is home grown).

Here is a list of whole fresh fruits that may be stored in the refrigerator and the time they can be held for high quality:

APPLES, eating ripe	1 week
APRICOTS	3 to 5 days
BLACKBERRIES	1 or 2 days
BLUEBERRIES	3 to 5 days
CHERRIES	1 or 2 days
CRANBERRIES	1 week
FIGS	1 or 2 days
GRAPES	3 to 5 days
NECTARINES	3 to 5 days
PEACHES	3 to 5 days
PEARS	3 to 5 days
PLUMS	3 to 5 days
RASPBERRIES	1 or 2 days
RHUBARB	3 to 5 days
STRAWBERRIES	1 or 2 days
WATERMELONS	3 to 5 days

Virginia Fibre Reports Wood Purchases For Week

Listed below is the total dollar volume of wood purchased for the week ending July 3, 1977 by Virginia Fibre Corporation of Riverville. Purchases are listed by counties.

Albermale	3,934.81
Amelia	2,440.35
Amherst	8,798.57
Appomattox	12,174.94
Augusta	526.88
Bedford County	3,896.29
Buckingham	9,220.75
Prince William	519.64
Campbell	4,607.48
Charlotte	- -
Cumberland	4,490.15
Halifax	1,942.93
Nelson	17,231.52
Fluvanna	544.37
Pittsylvania	3,087.13
Prince Edward	7,028.85

We feel this information is of interest to our readers not only in this county but in adjoining counties.

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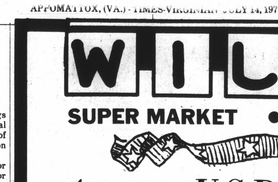
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CHUCK STEAK 79¢ Lb.
ARM ROAST 99¢ Lb.
Armour Beef or Reg. 12 oz. Pkg. Hot Dogs 79¢
Chicken Livers 69¢ Lb
BONELESS ARM ROAST $1.09 Lb.
Armour Vacuum Packed Beef or Reg. BOLOGNA 59¢
Valleydale TEEN FRANKS 99¢ Lb.
Tony's PIZZAS 6 oz. pkg. 20¢ Off Regular Price
Dairy & Frozen Foods
Sealtest ICE CREAM All Flavors ½ gal. $1.39
LIBBY'S LEMONADE 12 oz. can 2/69¢
LYNDEN FARMS 20 oz. package FRENCH FRIES 4/$1
MRS. FILBERT'S Quarters MARGARINE 2/$1.00
Hunt's 32 oz. TOMATO KETCHUP 89¢
BORDEN'S SLICED AMERICAN CHEESE 12 oz. -16 slices 99¢
Golden Grain Macaroni & Cheddar Cheese dinner 7¼ oz. 4/$1.00
Favorite BREAD 20 oz. Loaf Thin slice & Old Fashion 3/89¢
WESSON OIL 38 oz. bottle $1.49
Richfood Pork & Beans 30 oz. can 2/$1.00
A-1 STEAK SAUCE 10 oz. 99¢
Big Ben Punch, Grape, Orange FRUIT DRINKS gallon 89¢
Swift Premium Prem PREM Luncheon Meat 12 oz. 99¢
MARTHA WHITE FLAPSTAX 5.5 oz. BIXMIX 5.5 oz. CORN MUFFIN 7.5 oz. 6/$1.00
Figaro Tuna CAT FOOD 6 oz. 4 CANS $1.00
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"New" White POTATOES 10 lb. bag $1.09

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Early Green Rambo APPLES 4 LBS. $1.00
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